

MEMORIAL.

THOMAS PERKINS SHEPARD.





Prof. G. Sheppard

MEMORIAL

OF

THOMAS PERKINS SHEPARD, M. D.

READ BEFORE

THE TRUSTEES OF THE RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL,

SEPTEMBER 19, 1877,

BY

GEORGE I. CHACE,

PRESIDENT OF THE HOSPITAL.

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MEMORIAL.

GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

It is fit that somewhat more than a passing notice should be taken of those who have filled an important sphere and deserved well of their day and generation. It is due not only to them, but to the best interests of society, that their virtues and services should not be immediately forgotten. The important lessons to be derived from their lives—from the principles which guided them, and the results achieved by their labors—lessons more valuable than any mere material results however beneficial, should not be lost upon the community in which they have lived. It is an ill omen, when society ceases to hold its benefactors, of whatever degree, in reverent and grateful remembrance,—when it allows the good and the bad, the worthy and the unworthy, the generous and high-minded, and the mean and ignoble, to pass alike into forgetfulness. This must be my apology, if apology be needed, for attempting a brief sketch of the life of one who for a whole

generation has occupied a prominent place in our community, and left his impress upon an unusually large number of its varied interests—more especially who has identified himself to so great an extent with the Rhode Island Hospital, having from its very inception through every stage of its growth and progress, contributed to it without stint of his means, his counsels, and his untiring labors.

THOMAS PERKINS SHEPARD was born on the 16th day of March, 1817, in Salem, Mass. He was the oldest son of Michael Shepard, a man of great probity and benevolence of character, distinguished no less for his public and private benefactions, than for his success as a merchant, at a time when the old town was the seat of large wealth and an extensive commerce. On his mother's side the family record shows an honorable descent from the time of the landing at Salem in 1636. The old homestead in which he was born and where he spent his early years, was on a corner of the street, immediately opposite the house, now standing, in which the Salem witches were tried, and which is still known as the "witch house." His boyhood must have been unusually bright and happy. Amiable in disposition, gentle and winning in manners, quick of apprehension and apt to learn, he was the favorite of his teachers, and the hope and pride of his family and friends. The following touching letter from the Hon. Henry K. Oliver, by whom he was prepared for college, now Mayor of Salem and verging upon fourscore years, gives an interesting picture of him at this period of his life:—

“My recollection of Dr. Shepard as a lad is very distinct; he having been a near neighbor, pupil and beloved young friend. The similarity of our tastes brought us into more frequent intercourse than is usual between master and scholar; and I took all the more interest in him, and employed him the more, because of his unfailing fidelity to himself, to his studies and to me, as well as his most salutary example among his associates, and his premature skill in the department of chemistry; in which he was of great service to me, by assisting in preparation for lectures and experimental illustrations. His tastes lay principally in that study, and they seem to have influenced him in the business of life.”

“His native disposition, as I knew it, was gentle, his deportment respectful, yet always pleasant and confiding, his manner always winning. I can see even now at this remote period, the gentle smile that pervaded his features, whenever he came to me for aid in any of his studies. With excellent natural gifts and faithful habits of study, and conscientiousness in all his work, he could not fail to be an excellent scholar; so that when offered for college, it was but to enter with ease.”

His devotion to his studies and his comparative indifference and even disinclination to the active sports of boyhood might have proved detrimental, by impairing his excellent constitution, but for the practical tendencies above referred to, which early manifested themselves. While still at an almost tender age we find him in a cabinet-maker’s shop near his father’s residence, in which

he had hired a bench and tools, and where he spent most of his leisure hours in learning to use them. Believing it wise to encourage a taste so innocent and healthful, his father fitted up for him in the chamber of his barn a workshop and laboratory, and supplied them with all needed implements and apparatus. "Here," says a near relative and friend, "he could most generally be found, outside of his study hours, engaged in mechanics or experiments in chemistry; and here I have had many lessons from him in fancy box-making, turning, etc." While he was thus following with boundless content the strong leadings of a youthful fancy, he was unconsciously training himself to that accurate use of eye and hand for which he was remarkable, and which in after life was of so great assistance to him in his chosen pursuit. Although drawn by so powerful an attraction to his shop and laboratory and finding so great pleasure in them, he did not allow his employments there to take from the time due to his studies. His lessons were faithfully and well learned. At the early age of fourteen he was prepared for college, but his father wisely kept him at home a year longer. In the autumn of 1832 he entered the Freshman class of Brown University, where a new and wider field for his activities and aspirations opened itself. Though not ambitious of rank, and influenced in study far more by his natural tastes and inclinations, than by a regard to mere college standing, his scholarship even in the more elementary studies of the first and second years, in which he was less interested, was such as to give him a

high place in his class. It was not, however, till the third year, when the physical sciences were reached, that his real ability and character became apparent. I remember well a call which he made early in the junior year to remonstrate against what he conceived to be an act of injustice done to a classmate and friend. During the conversation he spoke to me of his interest in chemistry, which the class were then pursuing, and of the considerable amount of time he had given to its study, and to the preparation of experiments for illustrating its truths. The interview, which commenced rather sharply, though without any intended discourtesy, terminated by his accepting the offer of a place in my laboratory as private pupil and assistant. From that time till the end of his college course, he was as much at home in the laboratory as myself, and spent almost as much time in it. His interest soon extended from chemistry to the other natural sciences. During the summer of his senior year he accompanied me on a somewhat extended excursion through the middle, southern and western States, having for its object the study of some of the more important geological formations *in situ*, and the collection of mineral and fossil specimens from them. During this long period of almost daily intercourse, with relations as simple, affectionate and unrestrained as perhaps ever existed between pupil and teacher, was laid the foundation of a life-long friendship—a friendship which death alone on either side could terminate.

That his other studies did not suffer from his devo-

tion to the specialties which most interested him, may be inferred from the fact that on graduation he was appointed by the corporation to a tutorship in the University, although not yet twenty years of age. This office, however, he did not long hold. After a year of service, marked by signal ability, he resigned his place in the College preparatory to commencing the study of medicine, to which he had from the beginning looked forward. Returning to his native town he entered the office of Dr. A. L. Pierson, who afterwards lost his life in the disaster at Norwalk, Conn., on the 6th of May, 1853. On the opening of the Harvard course of lectures in Boston he removed to that city where he remained till he had completed his medical studies. During the last year he was connected with the Massachusetts General Hospital. He had charge of the dispensary and performed the duties of resident physician. The position involved a large amount of labor, but at the same time afforded rare opportunities for improvement in his profession.

Having availed himself of the best means offered at home for carrying forward his education, he now resolved to go abroad. He was young and in good health, with a constitution capable of great endurance. His means were ample, he having inherited from an early friend of his father, whose name he bore, what was then regarded as a small fortune. There was no reason why he should restrain his aspirations for a broad and liberal culture, or place a restriction upon his desire to see whatever of interest, whether in nature or art or human society

the old world had to offer. He accordingly formed the most generous plans of study and travel. In a letter written a short time before leaving for Europe, he says: “I intend to sail in the packet for Havre on the 16th of next month. I shall be in Paris probably from twelve to eighteen months, and if I do not make the Garden of Plants and the Lectures on Chemistry, Comparative Anatomy, etc., of value to me, I am very much mistaken. You know it is my desire to settle in life as a professor of chemistry—rather than as a practising physician; but I shall prepare myself for both situations as thoroughly as if I had but one in view. From France I shall visit England, Scotland, and probably Dublin, as the professional advantages of this latter place are very great. I shall pass through Belgium to Germany and stay long enough to learn the language. From Germany I shall proceed to Italy, and spend eight or ten months,—thence to Palestine, Egypt, and down the Red Sea—home. I expect to be abroad three years or more. Such is an outline of my route—but circumstances will vary it, it is impossible to say how much—not materially, however, if I can prevent it.”

This programme was substantially carried out. The period of his absence, however, extended to nearly four years, and he returned from his journeyings in the East, not as he expected by the Red Sea in one of his father’s ships, but back through Europe, revisiting on the way its principal cities.

Though so full of interests and with a prospect so attractive opening up before him, he did not forget his

friends or the University. Never was his thoughtfulness of others or his readiness to do for them more striking. In a letter of nearly the same date, September 16, 1840, he says: "Now think what I can do for you. I can exchange fossils, specimens, shells, etc., and if you will send me on duplicates I will do the best I can for you. But to do this to advantage I must have letters to the Directors of the Jardin des Plantes, and to other scientific men. Can you procure them for me or put me in the way of getting them? I shall be in Paris, probably eighteen months, and during that time shall have splendid opportunities, if I can only improve them. I mean to visit, also, all the scientific places in England, Germany and Italy, and can be of great service to your department, if you give me your coöperation. All I want is introductions and specimens, and such is the eagerness in Europe to obtain our fossils that I am certain you can do better in this way than by purchases."

On the desired letters being forwarded to him, he writes, October 5, 1840: "I received with great pleasure the packet you sent me. I hope I can be of service to you while in Paris. You know how willingly I will execute any commissions. You shall hear from me every month, and I shall hope to hear as often from you. To a stranger in a strange land a letter from such a friend will be like cool waters to a thirsty soul." His readiness to accept private commissions, one of the severest tests of friendship, was not greater than the care, fidelity and good judgment with which he executed them. The following extracts from one of his earlier

letters from Paris will give some idea of the variety and fullness of his life in the new world to which he had come: "For the first three weeks I did nothing but sight seeing; and really you know not in America what sight seeing is. A man might pass his lifetime in Paris and find something new and entertaining every day. You cannot expect me in the compass of a letter to give you any idea of what I have seen. From the Louvre down to the shops of the Palais Royal, every thing is full of interest; and even the little fancy articles of the shops are so elegant in design and so skilfully arranged that every stranger who comes here passes hours in looking at shop windows. They say, and very truly, that Paris is the 'ladies' paradise'; for, from the bonnets to the shoes, every article of ladies' dress is elegant in the extreme, and so great is the variety, and at such cheap rates for each article, that I wonder that every husband in the place is not ruined, as I cannot conceive it possible that any lady could resist the temptation to buy. After spending in this sort of idle, and yet delightful life, about three weeks, I moved over the other side into the 'noble faubourg,' and began in earnest the study of medicine. I cannot give you even an outline of the courses of medical instruction here—for the system is so extensive that it would require a volume—but if I tell you my mode of life, you will see what American students usually do. I rise about seven, which is very early at this season, and get to the 'Hôpital de la Charité' about a quarter before eight. This is an immense hospital containing about six

hundred beds, and is visited by three physicians and two surgeons every morning—a certain number of patients being allotted to each. Velpeau, now the first surgeon in the world, whom I follow, has about one hundred and twenty—these are all visited in about an hour and a quarter; and a little after nine he gives a lecture on all the cases, in the amphitheatre close by the hall. This lasts till half past ten. We then go home to breakfast. After breakfast we attend usually two lectures at the 'Ecole de Medicine,' on anatomy and surgical anatomy. From three to six we attend at 'La Charité,' three times a week, and at 'l'Hopital des Enfans Malades,' three times, to study with the 'Interne' in private the cases which we see in public every morning. This completes the day. In the evening we read, write, or go to the 'spectacle.' But so completely do I get exhausted by the labors of the day, that it is really a great effort to go to the greatest attraction of Paris. I have been only four times since I have been here—twice to the 'Grand Opera,' once to the 'Comique,' and once to 'Franconi's.' "

In the same letter he says: "Dr. Wayland arrived here last Friday; and it was not until he had been here four days that I heard of his arrival. He was very sick the whole passage out, and was sick all the time he was in England. He is now nearly well, but not in good spirits. Much to my surprise and sorrow he has renounced his intention of visiting other parts of Europe. I hope, however, as he finds himself getting better he will change his mind and go at least to Florence and Rome. I shall do all in my power to induce him to do

so. He is as pleasantly situated in Paris as a man who can scarce speak a word of French can be ; that is, he is like a lion tormented by wasps ; for he finds himself awfully cheated every time he attempts to purchase even the smallest article. He gave three and one-half francs for a pair of gloves which usually sell for twelve sous. He gave five francs for two armfulls of wood, and this morning I found him buying ten kilograms of coal at four and one-half francs, when the price is seven francs per one hundred kilograms. The way he looked at the fellow who was selling it to him when I told him what the common price was, was 'magnifique.' He did not know French enough to say a word. But the fellow understood the look well enough without. He cut out of the room as if the Doctor were after him with a bowie knife. I have suspended one course of lectures for the purpose of going round with him, to do the talking. We have visited a good many things together and have a thousand more to visit. I have tried to persuade him to go to the opera with me in the evening, but he will not."

How well he improved the opportunities which his extended plan of study offered, how his interests widened and extended from science to art and language and literature and polities, until they at length took in all the means of the most generous culture ; in a word, how broad and how deep he laid the foundations of that education which was to fit him for his place and work in life, is best shown by his letters while abroad, from which I give one or two more extracts. They will serve

further to illustrate his nice observation and his discriminating taste as well as his power of seizing upon the most interesting aspects of objects and his unusual felicity in describing them. Under date of May 18, 1843, he writes: "I have now been three months in Rome, and could wish the months might be lengthened into years. It is the most interesting city in the world, for its history, its antiquities, its public ceremonies, and the fine arts. Nor has the society been less attractive this winter than the more legitimate objects of interest. Mr. Greene, our consul, gave parties every Wednesday evening, which were well attended and occasionally brilliant. . . . The weather here has been lovely for three weeks past, warm without being hot, clear without being glaring. It is such weather that mere existence is a luxury, and is peculiarly tempting to that 'dolce far niente,' which we read of as the characteristic of the climate of Italy. I have a fine horse and every day take long gallops over the desolate campagna, which is without fences, uncultivated, and scattered over with melancholy ruins. But whichever way I leave Rome I can rarely resist the desire to visit towards sunset the fountain of Egeria. It is a lovely spot and most fit for solitude and meditation; and more beautiful now in its ruins and desertion, than when surrounded by temples and palaces. Juvenal's wish is accomplished:

‘quanto praestantius esset
Numen aquae, viridi si margine clanderet undas
Herba, nec ingenuum violarent marmora tophum.’

It is now a simple fountain with some ruined brick

walls about it, and surrounded by tall grass and wild flowers. Not far off is the tomb of Cecilia Metella, equally lone and deserted. Indeed every spot in the vicinity of Rome is hallowed ground, and has been celebrated by some deed of valor or some effusion of genius."

In a letter written from Florence, he says: "I left Vienna a month since, having during my stay there, read the principal modern authors, and made a long step ahead in speaking the language—that indeed being the chief object of my stay. Three days after leaving Vienna I was in Venice—the most beautiful and fairy-like city I have ever seen. If I were asked to name the two most remarkable places that I have visited I should say Venice and Petra—one rising as by magic out of the sea, and the other carved from the rock. . . . I have been here some ten days, occupied constantly in the galleries and studios. What they are you know too well to need any description from me. I have bought nothing as yet, and am in perfect despair as to what to buy. I am very desirous of getting something for Dr. Wayland that will suit him, and be suitable for him. He takes greatly to statuettes, and has a fine and severe taste in that branch of the 'divine arts'; but has at the same time a most inconsistent and undutiful antipathy to Venuuses and the young gentlemen in a pair of wings, and 'nothing else,' and seems to prefer good substantial drapery to the most captivating fig leaves. Now I know for certain only one statue which would in every way suit him, and I am ashamed of my own selfishness when I say it—I want that myself. It is Canova's Magdalen

—a statue not so much admired as many others ; but to my mind it is the most perfect ideal of beauty and penitence that the mind of man has ever conceived. I have persuaded myself, that although it would suit him, it would not suit all his visitors, because it is a female figure only partially draped. But as I said before, I fear a good deal of selfishness has led me to this conclusion. There is one other statue which I think he has never seen, and therefore am in doubt whether it would please him. It is a child praying, a boy of some two or four years—the very poetry of devotion—a statue that I should buy for myself next after the Magdalen. It has been made only a few years, but copies of it are all over Europe. It is the statue of the day. It is not draped, but any man's mind must be thoroughly debased, who could see anything indelicate in it. Will you tell him I have described this statue to you, and see what he thinks of it ? ”

His residence abroad in different countries and under different governments, afforded him a favorable opportunity for comparing the institutions and customs of his own land with those of Europe, which he did not fail to improve. Although his pride of country suffered some abatement and he became more sensible of our faults as a people, he did not come back denationalized or less a republican. In a letter written soon after the suffrage troubles in our State, and containing some very just comments upon them, he adverts to a more general source of danger to our government and to the rights and liberties of citizens—the tyranny of public opinion

and its ascendancy over law. "Where is one freest," he asks, "in his actions and in the expression of his opinions, in New York or Boston, or in Paris or Berlin, or even in Vienna? Will not every American who has resided abroad be compelled to reply, in the latter cities? What was the fate of Garrison in Boston for publishing some insulting expressions on the inconsistency of slaveholding republicans? He was nearly torn in pieces by a mob in broadcloth. What was the fate of the Ursuline Convent? What would be the fate of nine out of ten of all the respectable gentlemen in New England, if they should dare to express openly in South Carolina their abhorrence of slavery? Have not the Mormons been persecuted, pillaged and murdered, because they were Mormons? Have not Bible agents been publicly whipped because they had copies of the *Liberator* in their possession? And have not slaves been roasted alive, without trial or form of law? We have lots of public liberty in America. Any demagogue may slander and abuse, in the public prints, the highest officers of the State, or those whom he is most bound to respect. Life and property are safe to those who do not violate too far public opinion. But is the most precious liberty of all—the liberty of thought equally secure? But all this I fear you will consider political heresy. I should be very sorry if you should suppose from the tone of it, that I am any the less a republican, or any the less an American than ever—on the contrary if I have judged rightly of myself, I am more of both than before coming to Europe. With all our faults I really believe that an

elevated destiny is before us, and I am sincerely desirous to take my place at home, and add my little aid to work out its accomplishment."

He had now accomplished the objects which he proposed in going abroad. He had further become a perfect master of the French language and had acquired enough of the German to unlock its treasures of science and literature. He also read and spoke Italian with ease. He was at length ready to turn his face homeward. He arrived in Boston in the summer of 1844. After a few days spent in seeing and in visiting friends, he began to make preparations for carrying out a project which he had already conceived—the establishment of a laboratory on a large scale, for making chemical reagents, which at that time were largely imported from England. His first question was, where should the works be erected? His thoughts naturally turned towards Providence where he had many friends, and which was already the centre of a large manufacturing district. Having decided upon the location of the works, his next question was, what chemical reagents should he make? What were most largely consumed in the neighborhood? This question could be satisfactorily answered only by free access to the different manufactories in and around the city. For a stranger to obtain such access was at that time by no means easy. Nearly all of them had processes which the owners deemed it for their interest to keep secret. In a letter dated Salem, October 16, 1844, he writes: "It will be necessary for me this winter and before long to

spend some time in one of the large print works, in order to see exactly what substances they use, and the state and manner and amount in which they employ them. I have no desire to learn the secrets of the color-mixers ; for they would not be of the least benefit to me. I would willingly pledge my word not to observe beyond the limits I have mentioned, and also not to communicate or make use of any information which might accidentally reach me, and which they might desire to keep secret. What do you think of the matter? To whom had I better apply, simply for permission to spend a sufficient length of time in their establishment to make myself acquainted with their objects of consumption, in order that I may furnish them better and cheaper?" He finally decided to open an office in Providence and offer his services as a professional chemist, in order that in this capacity he might gain admission to the manufactorys where chemical processes were conducted and chemical reägents employed. From the information thus gained he soon became satisfied that sulphuric acid must be his chief product. It was consumed in large quantities by the calico printers, and he himself would require it in the preparation of other reägents employed by them. He accordingly, the following spring, commenced the erection of works for making it. A similar project had been started several years before ; but whether for want of the requisite knowledge, or from insufficiency of capital, or from lack of practical ability, or from all of these causes, the undertaking had miscarried. He was therefore the more careful to make

himself master of all the details of the manufacture upon which he was about to enter, and to embody in his constructions and processes every improvement at that time known on either side of the Atlantic. And so skilfully and with such admirable judgment did he contrive and arrange every part of his works, that this new, and as new and untried, hazardous enterprise, was from the very beginning a success. I have been more particular in giving these details, because they illustrate the thoroughness of our friend's habits—the honest and conscientious work which he put into every thing that he did, and because of the importance of the example. Were it generally followed, how much of failure and disaster to individuals, and of loss to the community, would be prevented.

In 1848 he formed a partnership with his friend Edward Douglas Pearce, a rising member of the Bar, who, in addition to his legal knowledge, possessed a high order of business talent. From that time onwards the manufacture was carried on by the firm, under the style of "T. P. Shepard & Co." This association proved a most fortunate one. Rarely, if ever, have two men of so marked and decided characters, worked together more harmoniously, or with advantages greater or more equally distributed. Notwithstanding the differences of opinion which must necessarily arise in conducting an important business through almost thirty years, during this whole period not an incident occurred to weaken their friendship or diminish their mutual confidence and respect. In his will Dr. Shepard named

Mr. Pearce as one of his executors and also provided for the continuance of his interest in the business under his management.

As the demand for sulphuric acid increased, the works were from time to time enlarged until at length the establishment became, and has for many years continued to be, one of the most important as well as most successful of the lesser manufactories of the city and its neighborhood. With every enlargement of the works new improvements were introduced, and they were kept, in respect to both mechanical arrangements and chemical processes, abreast of the most advanced knowledge of the day.

In 1859, William Wheaton Pearce, brother of Edward Douglas, a man of most amiable character, with gifts of both mind and heart, which only his intimate friends knew, was admitted to the firm. By his extensive study of chemistry at home and abroad, and by his rare mechanical ingenuity and resource, he was specially fitted to take the supervision of the works. It was accordingly given to him, and Dr. Shepard was relieved for a time from a labor which had become burdensome, and in some degree distasteful to him. He now had more leisure for his own private pursuits, and for the services which the public demanded of him. This continued till the death of Mr. Pearce, which took place suddenly on the first of September, 1867.

In June, 1874, Edward Douglas Pearce, junior, who had specially prepared himself for the situation, and upon whom the mantle of the senior member and

founder of the firm would seem to have fallen, took charge of the works. Under his active and vigilant supervision their high condition has been maintained, and some minor perfections have been added to them. It is probable that there is no establishment in this country, and perhaps none in Europe, where sulphuric acid is manufactured more skilfully or with larger appliances of science.

After Dr. Shepard had brought his works to a state requiring less constant attention, and shared the care of the business with a partner, he turned his thoughts to another important enterprise—the manufacture of illuminating gas, and its distribution over the city. That he might be able to form a more reliable judgment of the feasibility of the project, he caused a canvass of the different wards to be made, to ascertain, as far as practicable, the amount that would be taken. The result of such canvass proving satisfactory, an association of citizens was formed and chartered under the name of “The Providence Gas Company.” At the meeting of the company for organization Dr. Shepard was chosen secretary, and was also placed on the board of direction. At an early meeting of the board of directors, of which he was also secretary, he was appointed one of a committee of three to select and purchase a suitable site for the works, to contract with some reliable and competent party for putting them up, and to superintend their erection. How well this difficult and onerous task was performed is known to our citizens. I shall be doing no injustice to the other

members of the committee, whose well known forms and faces, alas, we no longer see on the streets and in their accustomed places of business, if I add that the heaviest part of the work fell upon Dr. Shepard.

As the character of Dr. Shepard became more generally known and his rare ability appreciated, demands were made upon him for service in various public capacities. In 1848 he was elected a member of the Common Council of the city of Providence, and in 1850 he was chosen its President. In 1853 he was elected from Providence to the Senate of the State. "In both of these bodies he served with conspicuous ability. In the Senate he made a thorough examination of the 'old State debt,' which had been for many years before the General Assembly, and came to the conclusion that it had been paid, and was not valid against the State. Another example of his thorough research was afforded in the investigation of an over-payment into the State Treasury by Stephen Cahoon, the late State Treasurer. Mr. Cahoon had found himself in possession of the sum of five thousand dollars which he could not account for. It did not belong to the bank of which he was cashier; it did not belong to himself; and he paid it into the treasury, with a frank admission that he did not know how it came to belong to the State, but he was sure that it did. Dr. Shepard overhauled the accounts, and found where honest old Mr. Cahoon had made an error in book-keeping, although he had made none in fact." The above is from a tribute to Dr. Shepard, as beautiful as it is appreciative, from his friend Senator Anthony.

It was while he was in the City Council, and largely through his exertions, that the Providence Reform School was established. He was Chairman of the committee appointed in July, 1848, "to select a proper location for such an institution, to procure plans for suitable buildings, with an estimate of their probable cost, and to report the same to the city council." In the following September the committee were further instructed "to enquire upon what system the institution should be established, and also what regulations and laws would be necessary for its successful working." The committee were occupied more than a year in collecting documents and obtaining information upon the several subjects referred to them. After their final report in December, 1849, Dr. Shepard and three others were instructed to apply to the General Assembly for the passage of an act to authorize the city of Providence to establish a reform school. He was from the beginning a warm advocate of the institution, but was opposed to placing boys and girls in the same building and under the same government; in which I think it will now be generally conceded that he was right.

That he was regularly in his place, and attended faithfully to his duties while a member of the Senate may be inferred from the constancy with which his name appears in the recorded votes of that body. The troubles in Kansas had already commenced, and the question whether her territory should be added to the area of slavery or to that of freedom was exciting the whole country. On the 24th of January, 1854, as we

learn from the senate journal, Dr. Shepard introduced resolutions "recommending our Senators and Representatives in Congress to use their best efforts to prevent the passage of any law whereby slavery or involuntary servitude, except for crime, can, under any circumstances, be ever introduced or established north of the parallel of $36^{\circ} 30'$ N. L.; and requesting the Governor to transmit copies of said resolutions to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, to be by them presented to their respective Houses." These resolutions were referred to a special committee, on which we find, besides his name, the names of Charles S. Bradley, Isaac P. Hazard, Henry H. Luther, and John Brown Francis. On the 26th, the resolutions were favorably reported, and passed unanimously by the Senate and afterwards by the House. So early did he take ground, and the State with him, on a great moral and political question, whose agitation was still feared and deprecated by more timid statesmen.

In 1851 he was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of Brown University, then under the presidency of Dr. Wayland. His executive ability and his strong practical sense as well as his generous culture, eminently fitted him for service in that body. In 1859 he was chosen a member of the Executive Board, so called, a sort of standing committee having charge of the interests of the University in the intervals of the sessions of its corporation. This position he held for six years. He also served on other important committees, especially those having charge of the construction

of buildings. The admirable arrangements of the new laboratory, towards which he was a liberal contributor, bear witness to the excellence of his judgment, as well as to his fidelity and devotion to whatever interests were entrusted to him. He was on the committee for procuring and presenting to the corporation plans for the new library building; as he was also one of the commissioners appointed by the Governor to build the new Court House. It is understood that the College and the State are indebted in no small degree to his judgment and his taste for the appropriateness and beauty of these structures.

From 1860 to 1864 he was a member of the Board of Prison Inspectors, and for two years its chairman. During much of the time he was associated with President Wayland and Mr. Zachariah Allen—names ever venerable—and aided in effecting the important changes brought about mainly through their efforts. I have heard the strongest testimony to the wisdom and ability which he showed in the management of the affairs of the prison.

But the institution with which he was most intimately connected, and which lay nearest his heart, was the Rhode Island Hospital. "When it was first proposed," I quote from a just and discriminating notice of him which appeared at the last Commencement, among the obituaries of deceased graduates, written by Professor William Gammell, "When it was first proposed in 1863, he became one of its most active promoters. His medical education and hospital experience, united with

his interest in the enterprise, made his services exceedingly valuable. He contributed to its funds, and obtained contributions from others; he indicated what the nature and extent of the institution ought to be, he superintended the erection of the building, was one of its trustees from its organization to the end of his life, and after the death of the late Dr. Caswell, was the president of its corporation. During all this period he has been among the foremost of those whose constant care and guardianship have made this institution so great a blessing to the community." That all this—and more than all this—is true, you will bear witness. You know of how great value his thorough medical training and his large hospital experience has been to us, how we instinctively turned to him for light and guidance on questions of management. You know, too, with what ability and devotion he served the institution; how alive he was to every thing that affected its welfare and the welfare of its inmates; what care and thought he bestowed upon all its arrangements; and how constant a supervision he exercised over it. Only a few days before his decease he told the superintendent that it was his purpose not to let a single week pass without visiting it.

Of no one could it more truly be said that positions of honor and trust sought him, and were not sought by him. When placed in them by his fellow-citizens he did not regard them as mere dignities to be enjoyed, but as situations imposing additional obligations and making new demands upon him for faithful, self-denying

ing and self-sacrificing labors. They were opportunities for a wider influence and for a larger and more abundant usefulness. He was not content with being a mere member of any board or body of men, however honorable such membership might be. Neither was he satisfied with simply embodying the sentiments of those with whom he was associated and becoming their representative and leader. He had definite views and opinions of his own, which he believed to be right and which he wished to see carried out as conducive to the welfare of the community. Failing of this, he did not care for office, but willingly left it to others who valued more highly the distinction conferred by it.

In June, 1856, Dr. Shepard married Elizabeth Anne, daughter of the late Professor William G. Goddard, with whom he passed a most happy life. Immediately after their marriage they went abroad and spent a year, chiefly in travelling. In 1867 he went to Europe a third time, Mrs. Shepard accompanying him. This time he made a journey through Spain, which he had not previously visited.

Dr. Shepard's interest in the physical sciences continued through life. Notwithstanding his numerous and absorbing occupations he kept himself constantly informed of their state and progress. He even found time to prosecute original inquiry in one or two of them. In photography, especially, he made discoveries of considerable importance, which his modesty prevented being generally known. Several of them, at the earnest solicitation of a friend, and through his agency, were

sent to the *British Journal of Photography*, where they appeared in successive numbers during the years 1865 and 1866.

In 1872 he published a small volume of receipts for calico printing, "particularly with reference to the employment of extracts of madder and artificial alizarine." It is a compilation, as he informs us in the preface, made principally from foreign sources. It represents the present state of the art in France and Germany, where many important improvements have been made within a few years not widely known among American printers, as they have been published for the most part in a foreign tongue. The volume has been much sought by the class of manufacturers for whom it was especially intended, and is understood to have rendered an important service to them.

The same year that the volume of receipts was published a large meeting of manufacturing chemists was held at Philadelphia, which Dr. Shepard attended. At this meeting it was decided to form a society under the name of the "Manufacturing Chemists' Association of the United States." On the organization of the society Dr. Shepard was elected Corresponding Secretary. This office he held till 1875, when he was made President of the Association. During his connection with it he prepared two important papers, one of which, "What is Sulphuric Acid?", was read before the society. The other, "Brimstone," was written to show what forms of the import, under the enactments of Congress, were dutiable and what were exempt from duty. The paper

made out its points so clearly that the rulings of the custom house officials, which it was intended to affect, were reversed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Dr. Shepard's fondness for literature was hardly less marked than his interest in science; or his reading in it less extensive. The English classics were to him a source of perpetual delight. Shakespeare he almost knew by heart. Had his efforts been turned in that direction he might have been a successful writer. He possessed all the natural qualifications for it—intellect, imagination and taste. He had also many of the acquired requisites—insight, knowledge, power of expression, and a nice perception of the congruities of thought and language. I have known few men who wrote better letters. Had those which his friends received from him while he was abroad been collected at the time and published, they would have made a volume of more than common interest. The work of revising them, and of preparing them for the press, so carefully were they written, would have been inconsiderable.

After his return from Europe, as we have seen, he laid aside his professional aspirations and turned his thoughts to business. This opened to him the prospect of ampler means and of a life more in accordance with that to which he had from childhood been accustomed. He thought wealth a reasonable object of ambition, and its pursuit by legitimate means an honorable one. It was to be desired for the consideration which it gave, and for its many and important uses. That eagerness

to grasp it, no matter in what way or by what instrumentalities, by which so many are blinded and their judgment destroyed, so that they become the victims of their own insane cupidity, was wholly unknown to him. To be worth striving for, it must be honestly won,—by the actual creation of value. The path to it which he chose was a plain and direct one. At every step along it he scattered benefits; and when he had at length gained what he regarded perhaps as little more than a competence, he used it so generously that it was of scarcely less service to others than to himself. I have spoken of his liberal gifts to the University and to the Rhode Island Hospital. To the latter institution he left by will eight thousand dollars; and to the Children's Friends' Society, which had for many years been accustomed to remembrances from him, he gave two thousand dollars. Of his private charities I cannot speak from personal knowledge. I have reason to believe that in proportion to his means, they were large. In one or two instances, of which I have chanced to learn, the assistance was generous, and it was rendered with a thoughtful regard for the sensibility and self-respect of the recipient.

Like all men who have accomplished much in the world, Dr. Shepard had clear perceptions, earnest purposes, and a strong will; but the true secret of his success, if I mistake not, was the habit of thoroughness in whatever he did. He never thought a work finished while anything remained that could be done. He never left in doubt what he had the means of determining, or

trusted to chance what it was in his power to control. He was remarkable for the happy union of the reflective with the active powers. He had equal facility in apprehending truths and in applying them. He was as clear in his theories as he was sound in his practice. Indeed theory was to him of little worth except as a guide to practice. Nor was practice ever satisfactory if unenlightened by theory. The opposition which so many imagine between the two, for him had no existence; true theory and right practice must always be in harmony.

In the intercourse of society Dr. Shepard was dignified and courteous, but with no studied care to please. He did not seek to win popularity by blandness of manner and the expression of interest which he did not feel. He was too upright and sincere to practice the arts of the flatterer. Even in business relations, where some concession of manner is perhaps allowable, he was independent and out-spoken. He never disguised or even withheld his opinions from motives of interest or policy. He did not seek to gain by indirect means what he could not secure by fair and open proceeding. You never left him in doubt of his position on any important subject, or uncertain where you would next find him. He scorned pretense, subterfuge and dishonesty, and hated cant and hypocrisy with a perfect hatred. He made warm friends, whom he bound to him by offices of kindness and affection. The circle, however, was not large. It might, perhaps, have been larger if he had been broader and freer in his sympathies, and more

tolerant of the weaknesses, insincerities and vanities which constitute to so large an extent the cohesive elements of ordinary society.

Dr. Shepard held definite opinions on a wide range of subjects, opinions not the mere reflections of society, or gathered simply from intercourse with others, but to an extent far greater than is usual the product of his own mental processes. In the expression and maintenance of opinions he did not always do himself justice. He was fond of paradox, and his ready command of language and the fertility of his resources in argument, tempted too frequently, perhaps, to indulge in it. He had a keen relish of wit, and a quick perception of the ludicrous, but was not, I think, remarkable for either humor or pathos. In his more thoughtful moods he was grave almost to sadness, like all men in whom the ideal so far outruns the possibilities of attainment. Although the best society was always open to him, he did not go frequently into it. He was of too earnest a nature to take pleasure in its gayeties and frivolities. His time was divided between hard work, very largely for others, and the rest and solace of a beautiful home, where, surrounded by everything that could gratify a cultivated and refined taste, he passed the evening hours in reading, or in conversation with a few intimate friends, or in reciting poetry with which his memory was well stored, or in listening to music for which he had a fine ear, and in certain departments of which he was no mean proficient, or in playing a quiet game, and leaving his thoughts to take whatever direction interest or chance might give them.

